



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

101 N. 14TH STREET, 17TH FL.
RICHMOND VA 23219

*Air Force Association
American Legion
AMVETS
Association of the United
States Army
Disabled American
Veterans
Fifth Baptist Veterans
Ministry
Fleet Reserve Association
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans
of America
Korean War Veterans
Association
Legion of Valor of the
U.S., Inc.
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the
Purple Heart
Military Officers Association
of America
Military Order of the
World Wars
Navy Mutual Aid Association
Navy Seabee Veterans of
America
Non-Commissioned
Officers Association
Paralyzed Veterans of
America
Reserve Officers Association
Roanoke Valley Veterans
Council
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Vietnam Veterans of America
Virginia Army/Air National
Guard Enlisted
Association
Virginia National Guard
Association
Women Marines Association*

July 24, 2019

Governor Ralph S. Northam
Patrick Henry Building
1111 E. Broad St., 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

On behalf of the Joint Leadership Council, I write to share that we have been briefed on, and are in full support of the *Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans and Their Families*.

Ms. Brandi Jancaitis, Military and Veterans Affairs Manager for the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) gave an excellent presentation at our April 17 meeting on Virginia's selection by SAMSA as one of seven states selected to participate in this important challenge.

The JLC hopes that focus on this important issue in Virginia will lead to potential cutting-edge solutions and policies. We stand ready to assist you and the members of this Challenge in any way needed. As a starting place, at our April 17 meeting, we voted unanimously on the following:

1. Make a commitment to pass out the cards from the Governor's challenge;
2. Put the information about the Governor's Challenge and presentation on suicide prevention in VSO newsletters; and
3. JLC will send a formal letter through the Chairman to the Governor supporting the Challenge and committing to support its' efforts.

The JLC has always, and will continue to, support ready access to behavioral health resources, as well as high-quality traditional and alternative treatments for trauma-related conditions and traumatic brain injuries that occur as a result of military service. This is vital to support our veterans and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this critical project for the health and well-being of veterans and their families in Virginia, and ending the epidemic of suicide.

Sincerely,

Frank G. Wickersham, III

cc: Secretary Carlos Hopkins
Secretary Dan Carey
DVS Commissioner John L. Newby, II